

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 NEW DE 06591 180641Z

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

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Z O 180600Z MAY 74 ZFF 4

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 1529

USINT DAMASCUS NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON FLASH

S E C R E T NEW DELHI 6591

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA. 2.)

DAMASCUS FOR THE SECRETARY

LONDON - DELIVERY IMMEDIATELY TO AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN

SUBJECT: INDIAN NUCLEAR TEST

FOREIGN SECRETARY KEWAL SINGH CALLED IN THE CHARGE AT 10 AM MAY 18 TO INFORM HIM THAT INDIA HAS AT 8 AM ON MAY 18 CARRIED OUT A PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSION. SAYING THAT HE WAS INFORMING THE US CHARGE BEFORE OTHER DEPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVES AND THAT HE WAS CARRYING OUT THE INSTRUCTIONS OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER, SINGH SAID THAT THE EXPLOSION HAD BEEN OF AN IMPLOSION DEVICE AT A DEPTH OF OVER ONE HUNDRED METERS BELOW GROUND. HE EXPLAINED THAT THE EXPERIMENT HAD BEEN CARRIED OUT BY THE INDIAN ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION IN ORDER TO KEEP INDIA ABREST OF THE TECHNOLOGY CONCERNING PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY FOR SUCH PURPOSES AS MINING AND EARTH MOVING. SINGH ASKED THAT THERE BE NO MISUNDERSTANDING THAT INDIA REMAINS ABSOLUTELY COMMITTED AGAINST THE USE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY FOR MILITARY PURPOSES.

2. THE CHARGE REPLIED THAT HE BELIEVED THAT THIS NEWS WOULD BE RECEIVED WITH CONSIDERABLE SHOCK IN WASHINGTON. EXPLAINED THAT AS KEWAL SINGH KNEW, THE US DID NOT BELIEVE IT POSSIBLE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN EXPLOSIONS FOR PEACEFUL AND MILITARY PURPOSES. SINGH REPEATED THAT INDIA WAS ABSOLUTELY OPPOSED TO MILITARY

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USES. THERE WERE LARGE SCALE POSSIBILITIES FOR USE IN MINERAL

EXPLOITATION. INDIA DID NOT SIGN NPT BECAUSE IT WAS OPPOSED TO
DISCRIMINATION AGAINST NON-NUCLEAR POWERS. IT WAS NEVERTHELESS
FIRMLY COMMITTED NOT TO USE NUCLEAR ENERGY FOR OTHER THAN PEACE-
FUL PURPOSES. INDIA DID NOT HAVE THE ECONOMIC CAPABILITY TO
DEVOTE TO MILITARY USE. SIGNH CONCLUDED BY STATING HIS DEVOUT
HOPE THAT THIS EVENT WILL NOT INTERFERE WITH IMPROVING US-
INDIA RELATIONS. SCHNEIDER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR TESTS, NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS, PEACEFUL USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY
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Draft Date: 18 MAY 1974
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